

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method, comprising the steps of:  
performing preset image processing on input image data;  
and

outputting processed image data as output image data,  
wherein

said preset image processing includes eye correction processing for correcting a closed eye image in a human image having an eye in a closed state into an eye image in an open state.

2. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said eye correction processing is composite processing for compositing an open eye image of a same person on said closed eye image.

3. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said eye correction processing is composite processing for compositing an open eye image of a person other than a same person to said closed eye image.

4. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said eye correction processing is composite processing for

compositing on said closed eye an eye image selected from a plurality of samples of open eye images which have preliminarily been prepared.

5. The image processing method according to claim 2, wherein said composite processing comprises a step of adjusting a size and angle of the eye, colors and densities of an eyelid, a pupil and neighbor of the eye in an image to composite so as to conform to those in an image to be composited.

6. The image processing method according to claim 5, wherein said adjusting step is performed automatically based on one or more characteristics of image characteristics of said image to be composited including a color and density of the neighbor of the eye, a position of each eye, a distance between both eyes, a size of the eye and a size of a face.

7. The image processing method according to claim 5, wherein said adjusting step is performed manually by an operator based on a menu which changes a size, angle, color, density and aspect ratio of the eye of said image to composite.

8. The image processing method according to claim 1,

wherein said eye correction processing is performed by the steps of:

comparing the eye image in the closed state and the eye image in the open state with each other;

assuming movement of a point on an eyelid based on a characteristic of a shape of the eye image; and

opening a closed eye based on the thus assumed movement.

9. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said eye correction processing comprises the steps of:

setting the eye image in the closed state as an input signal;

setting the eye image in the open state as a teacher signal;

learning an image conversion from a closed eye to a open eye; and

opening the closed eye based on the thus learned image conversion.

10. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein a degree of opening the closed eye is adjustable in said eye correction processing.

11. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the eye image in said closed state is adjustable into the eye image in a predetermined open state by specifying a length of eyelashes, a direction of the eyelashes, a single-edged eyelid or a double-edged eyelid.

12. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said eye correction processing further comprises a retouch function.

13. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said eye correction processing in correcting the closed eye image when only one eye is closed utilizes characteristics of open eye and neighbor thereof.

14. The image processing method according to claim 13, wherein, as the characteristics of the neighbor, at least one or more information of a color and size of a pupil, a length of eyelashes, a color of skin of an eyelid and the neighbor of the eye, a single-edged eyelid or a double-edged eyelid, a position of the eye and the size and shape of the eye are utilized.

15. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein a position or a shape of a pupil can be changed to be capable of adjusting a line of vision by both eyes.

16. An image processing apparatus for receiving image data from an image input device, performing preset image processing on the inputted image data and outputting processed image data as output image data to an image output device, comprising an eye correction processing device which corrects a closed eye image in a human image having an eye in a closed state into an eye image in an open state.

17. The image processing apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising an image display device, which controls such that an enlarged image of a neighbor of the eye can be displayed on said image display device while said eye correction processing device performs said eye correction processing for opening a closed eye.